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| REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL Address to: Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | | Application Number | 09/756,642 |
| | | Filing Date | January 3, 2001 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Paul J. RANK |
| | | Art Unit | 2176 |
| | | Examiner Name | Nathan Hillary |
| | | Attorney Docket No. | 30014200.1071 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on January 31, 2005 (Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other Copy of the amendment previously filed on January 31, 2005

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(l) required)
- b. Other Petition for three-month extension of time

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

- a. In connection with this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or to charge any additional fee required to Deposit Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other _____
- b. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Applicants' Attorneys' credit card in the amount of \$790 to cover the RCE fee and \$570 to cover the extension fee (extension fee for months one and two previously paid). Form 2038 attached.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer No. 26263 | <u>Christopher P. Rauch</u> | |
| Dated: February 24, 2005 | Christopher P. Rauch, (Registration No. 45,034) | |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----------|
| Name (Print/Type) | CHRISTOPHER P. RAUCH | | |
| Signature | <u>Christopher P. Rauch</u> | Date | 2/25/2005 |



RESPONSE AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2176

Attorney Docket No. 30014200-1071

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit: 2176
Paul J. RANK et al.)
Application No.: 09/756,642)
Filed: January 3, 2001)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A)
FILE FORMAT FOR STORING)
SPREADSHEETS COMPACTLY)

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, this Response After Final is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 30, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Applicants have submitted a petition for extension of time for two months filed concurrently herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-44 with the following:

1. (Original) A method of storing a spreadsheet file comprising:
storing on a first record property data of said spreadsheet file;
storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file;
storing on a third record spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said property data includes the number of rows and cells in said spreadsheet file.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said property data includes the name and version of the spreadsheet file.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said property data includes date information of said spreadsheet file.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said property data includes default data formatting information.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said access data includes the number of columns of said spreadsheet file accessed by said second record.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said access data includes cell IDs of cells in said columns accessed by said second record.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further including a plurality of records storing access data, wherein each of said plurality of records storing access data accesses a subset of columns of said spreadsheet file.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said cell data includes the number of cells stored in said third record.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said cell data includes the data values stored in cells stored in said third record.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including a plurality of records storing cell data, each of said plurality of records storing cell data storing a subset of the cells of said spreadsheet file.

12. (Original) An apparatus for a storing a spreadsheet file comprising:
a property record for storing property data of said spreadsheet file;
an access record coupled to said property record for storing access data of cells of said spreadsheet file;
a cell data record coupled to said access record for storing spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said property data includes the number of rows and cells in said spreadsheet file.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said property data includes the name and version of the spreadsheet file.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said property data includes date information of said spreadsheet file.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said property data includes default data formatting information.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said access data includes the number of columns of said spreadsheet file accessed by said access record.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said access data includes cell IDs of cells in said columns accessed by said second record.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18 further including a plurality of records storing access data, wherein each of said plurality of records storing access data accesses a subset of columns of said spreadsheet file.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said cell data includes the number of cells stored in said cell data record.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said cell data includes the data values stored in cells stored in said cell data record.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21 further including a plurality of records storing cell data, each of said plurality of records storing cell data storing a subset of the cells of said spreadsheet file.

23. (Original) A apparatus of storing a spreadsheet file comprising:
means for storing on a first record property data of said spreadsheet file;
means for storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file;
means for storing on a third record spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said property data includes the number of rows and cells in said spreadsheet file.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said property data includes the name and version of the spreadsheet file.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said property data includes data information of said spreadsheet file.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said property data includes default data formatting information.

28. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said access data includes the number of columns of said spreadsheet filed accessed by said second record.

29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said access data includes cell IDs of cells in said columns accessed by said second record.

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 29 further including a plurality of records storing access data, wherein each of said plurality of records storing access data accesses a subset of columns of said spreadsheet file.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said cell data includes the number of cells stored in said third record.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said cell data includes the data values stored in cells stored in said third record.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 further including a plurality of records storing cell data, each of said plurality of records storing cell data storing a subset of the cells of said spreadsheet file.

34. (Original) A computer program product comprising:

 a computer usable medium having a computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for causing a computer to store a spreadsheet file, said computer readable program code means comprising:

 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store on a first record property data of said spreadsheet file;

 computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store on a third record
spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells

35. (Original) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein said property data
includes the number of rows and cells in said spreadsheet file.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein said property data
includes the name and version of the spreadsheet file.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein said property data
includes date information of said spreadsheet file.

38. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36 wherein said property data
includes default data formatting information.

39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein said access data
includes the number of columns of said spreadsheet file accessed by said second record.

40. (Original) The computer program product of claim 39 wherein said access data
includes cell IDs of cells in said columns accessed by said second record.

41. (Original) The computer program product of claim 40 further including a
plurality of records storing access data, wherein each of said plurality of records storing access
data accesses a subset of columns of said spreadsheet file.

42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 34 wherein said cell data
includes the number of cells stored in said third record.

43. (Original) The computer program product of claim 42 wherein said cell data
includes the data values stored in cells stored in said third record.

44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 further including a plurality of records storing cell data, each of said plurality of records storing cells data storing a subset of the cells of said spreadsheet file.

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-44 were rejected in the Final Office Action dated August 30, 2004. No claims are amended in this Response. Accordingly, claims 1-44 are at issue in the above-identified application.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Young et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,280,575). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to claim 1, for example, at least because *Young et al.* does not teach or suggest “storing on a first record property data of said spreadsheet file,” “storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file,” nor “storing on a third record spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells.” As acknowledged by the Examiner in the Final Office Action dated August 30, 2004, *Young et al.* does not teach any of the limitations in the body of the claim. For example, the Examiner states in the Final Office Action, “[*Young et al.*] do[es] not explicitly teach storing on a first record property data of said spreadsheet file; storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file; storing on a third record spreadsheet cell data for a plurality of spreadsheet cells.” (Final Office Action, p. 2). Applicants acknowledge that these limitations are not taught by the cited reference *Young et al.* and submit that they are not rendered obvious in view of the cited reference.

In particular, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection to claim 1 at least because *Young et al.* does not disclose “storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet” as recited, for example, and in claim 1. *Young et al.* does not teach or suggest “access data.” In the present application, access data stored on a separate record may be used to efficiently index and

access cell data. (See, for example, p. 16, ll. 3-7, p. 17, ll. 1-3. See also, for example, p. 21, l. 19 - p. 23, l. 4).

Young et al. discloses no similar aspect. In *Young et al.*, cell data is simply stored in cells without a way to efficiently index or access the cell data, and no access data is stored on a separate record for efficiently indexing or accessing cell data. *Young et al.* states “[t]he tabular data structure 10 thus provides a data structure in which rows, as well as cells in each row, may be close packed, by use of the row identifie[r]s in row number field 92 and the cell column identifiers in the cell column number field 100.” (Col. 8, ll. 48-52; See also Fig. 5D). There is no access data stored on a second record for accessing this data. As a result, *Young et al.* does not teach or suggest “storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet.” Notably, the lack of this limitation is acknowledged by the Examiner. (Final Office Action, p.2).

In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner asserts that “the Office asserts that the skilled artisan would have known various methods of storing information in separate areas of memory.” (Final Office Action, p. 9). Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion and request that the Examiner cite references as they pertain specifically to the limitations of the claims at issue pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2) and M.P.E.P. 2144.03.

At least for the reasons above and the reasons discussed in the previous Amendment dated May 25, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference *Young et al.* Claims 2-11 which depend from claim 1 are also patentable over *Young et al.* for at least the same reasons.

For reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that the rejection of independent claims 12, 23, and 34 should be withdrawn. With respect to claims 13-22, 24-33,

and 35-44, these claims depend from claims 12, 23, and 34, respectively, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons.

II. Conclusion

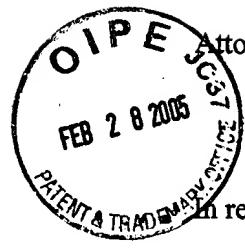
In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 31, 2005

By: 
Kimani P. Clark
Registration No. 45,969

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Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
Phone: (202) 408-9214
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Attorney Docket No. 30014200-1071

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit: 2176
Paul J. RANK et al.)) Examiner: Nathan Hillery
Application No.: 09/756,642))
Filed: January 3, 2001))
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A))
FILE FORMAT FOR STORING))
SPREADSHEETS COMPACTLY))

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION FOR A TWO-MONTH
EXTENSION OF TIME PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136**

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the period for response to the Final Office Action dated August 30, 2004 for two months so that the period for response is extended to January 31, 2005. Applicants submit herewith a check in the amount of \$450.00, which includes the extension fee.

Petition
Application No. 09/756,642
Page 2



The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or to charge any deficiency in a required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 31, 2005

By: 
Kimani P. Clark
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TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 13

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 09/756,642 |
| Filing Date | January 31, 2001 |
| First Named Inventor | Paul J. RANK |
| Group Art Unit | 2176 |
| Examiner Name | Nathan Hillery |
| Attorney Docket Number | 30014200.1071 |

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

Transmitted herewith is Response After Final; Petition For a Two-Month Extension
 The fee has been calculated as shown below:

| | (2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | (4) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | (5) PRESENT EXTRA | (6) RATE | (7) ADDITIONAL FEE |
|-----------------------|--|--|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 44 | - | 24 | 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> x \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> x \$50.00 |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS | 4 | - | 1 | 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> x \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> x \$200.00 |
| | APPLICATION AMENDED TO CONTAIN ANY MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS NOT PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> x \$180.00 <input type="checkbox"/> x \$360.00 ONE TIME |
| | | | | | TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT |
| | | | | | \$0 |

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for responding to the Final Office Action dated August 30, 2004 by two month(s) for a fee of \$450.00 so that the period for response is extended to January 31, 2005 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321.
 The amount of \$_____ for the Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. § 1.321 is included in the enclosed credit card payment form to charge.
 The enclosed credit card payment form to charge the amount of \$_____ to cover the total claim fee and other applicable fees.
 The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the extension fee and any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

14. Customer No. 26263

Dated: January 31, 2005


Kimani P. Clark (Registration No. 45,969)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Dated: _____



PLEASE STAMP AND RETURN TO SHOW RECEIPT OF:

U.S. Patent Application of: Paul J. RANK et al.

Application No.: 09/756,642
Filed: January 3, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2176
Examiner: Nathan Hillery
Client: Sun Microsystems, Inc.

**For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A FILE FORMAT FOR STORING
SPREADSHEETS COMPACTLY**

1. Transmittal Form (1 page)
2. Petition For A Two-Month Extension (2 pages, including duplicate copy)
3. Response After Final (10 pages)
4. Return Receipt Postcard
5. Check - \$450.00 (petition fee)

Dated: January 31, 2005
Attorney Docket No.: 30014200.1071
Kimani P. Clark/laf



All hand-delivered to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 31, 2005